



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2023



Lumberton Mural (Robeson County, NC),
Photo: Lumberton Main Street Program



Daufuskie Island, SC
Photo : Discover SC



Yellow-bellied slider in Gulf Shores, AL
Photo by Farren Delle



SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

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Message from Federal Co-Chair Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed and 2023 States' Co-Chair Governor Henry McMaster

We are pleased to present the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023.

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) has concluded its second year of operations and remains encouraged about the impactful, meaningful, and measurable goals we have accomplished. This report highlights many of those successes.

Of the eight (8) identified regions in the United States where regional commissions are authorized to operate, six (6) are currently active. The SCRC was authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the 2008 Farm Bill, becoming operational in January 2021 once the Federal Co-Chair, Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, was sworn into office.

Regional commissions were created to alleviate the burden of poverty via a federal-state partnership serving as a grantmaking entity for projects promoting sustainable economic development. The SCRC footprint spans 210,508 square miles in seven states – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. In FY 2023, SCRC had 51.1 million residents in 428 counties or county-equivalents, where 166 areas, or 39 percent, were identified as economically distressed.

Overcoming the obstacles and pervasive issues experienced from economic distress is daunting. By collaborating with participating member states, SCRC has made headway in becoming a viable entity for positive change.

FY 2023 Commission funding was derived from multiple sources: \$20 million from Public Law 117 - 328 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023; \$8.75 million from previous appropriations; and \$5 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This funding has allowed SCRC to get off to a solid start. The Commission has also communicated with other federal agencies to form partnerships to broaden our reach and deepen our impact.

To date, SCRC has enacted a robust implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan, focusing on six identified goals: (1) Investing in Critical Infrastructure; (2) Improving Health and Support Services, Access and Outcomes; (3) Strengthening Workforce Capacity; (4) Fostering Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities; (5) Expanding Affordable Housing Stock and Access; and (6) Promoting Environmental, Conservation, Preservation and Access.

The Commission has also *conducted* a comprehensive health assessment of the 166 distressed-identified counties in its footprint, *collected and posted* State Development Plans and Strategy Statements from participating states, *partnered* with the White House with the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, *designed* a Local Development District (LDD) Capacity Building Program and State Capacity

Building Program, and lastly, *launched* the inaugural State Economic Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program cycle.

Priorities for SCRC include continuing to establish a foundation from which to operate and carry out the intents and purposes of the governing statute. SCRC is on par to announce the awardees of the inaugural grant program investments in FY 2024. By collaborating and communicating with local development districts, community organizations, Governors’ Alternates and State program managers, we will accomplish a great deal throughout the region.

SCRC will invest in basic public infrastructure; transportation infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; job skills training; business development and entrepreneurship; basic health care and other public services; conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space; and renewable resources will improve the lives of its residents. At least half of SEID grant funding will be dispersed in economically distressed counties and isolated areas of economic distress. At least forty percent of SEID funds will be allocated to infrastructure projects.

SCRC is committed to building sustainable communities and strengthening economic development in the 428 counties and county-equivalents that comprise the Southeast Crescent footprint. We look forward to the continued work with our federal, state, and regional partners to support Commission initiatives. Doing so will allow SCRC to achieve its mission and ensure a prosperous future for the people who call the Southeast Crescent region home.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed
Federal Co-Chair
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission



The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor of South Carolina
2023 States’ Co-Chair

Commission Members

CO-CHAIRS



Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed
Federal Co-Chair



The Honorable Henry McMaster
*Governor, State of South Carolina
States' Co-Chair*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Representing the State of Alabama

The Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor

State Alternate: Director Kenneth Boswell
Department of Economic and Community Affairs

SCRC State Program Managers:
Crystal Talley and Leslie Clark
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs



Representing the State of Florida

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor

State Alternate: N/A

SCRC State Program Managers: N/A



Representing the State of Georgia

The Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor

State Alternate: Commissioner Christopher Nunn
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

SCRC State Program Manager:
Brittany Pittman
Georgia Department of Community Affairs



Representing the State of Mississippi

The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor

State Alternate: Sam Andrews
Office of the Governor

State Program Managers:
Andrea Rose
Mississippi Development Authority



Representing the State of North Carolina

The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor

State Alternate: Director Jim McCleskey
North Carolina Washington Office

SCRC State Program Manager:
Olivia A. Collier
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Representing the State of South Carolina

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor

State Alternate: Director Jordan Marsh
Federal Affairs, Office of the Governor

SCRC State Program Managers:
Caroline Griffin
South Carolina Department of Commerce



Representing the State of Virginia

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor

State Alternate: Director Bryan Horn
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

SCRC State Program Managers:
Matt Weaver and Rachel Jordan
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

About the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

Mission:

To build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across the Southeast Crescent region.

Authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (“The Farm Bill”), SCRC’s focus is on addressing issues related to economic development and poverty in its 428 counties across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Of the 428 counties in FY 2023, 39 percent were categorized as distressed.

Distressed counties typically have high rates of unemployment; banking, healthcare, and broadband deserts; and a scarcity of quality, affordable housing and safe drinking water¹. Looking ahead, SCRC is committed to investing at least 50 percent of grant funds in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress in the region and 40% in basic infrastructure to boost economic development and sustainable growth of communities across the Southeast Crescent region.

The Uniqueness of the SCRC Region

The residents of the Southeast Crescent region proudly represent and contribute to the unique spirit, culture, traditions, and natural environment of the region. From the Florida Everglades to the Mississippi Palisades, and the saltwater marshes in South Carolina’s Lowcountry to the Little River Canyon National Preserve in Alabama, the beauty of the Southeast Crescent is as unique as its people. Many SCRC counties are home to a larger share of Black and/or African American residents as well as Latinx and/or Hispanic residents as compared to the national average.

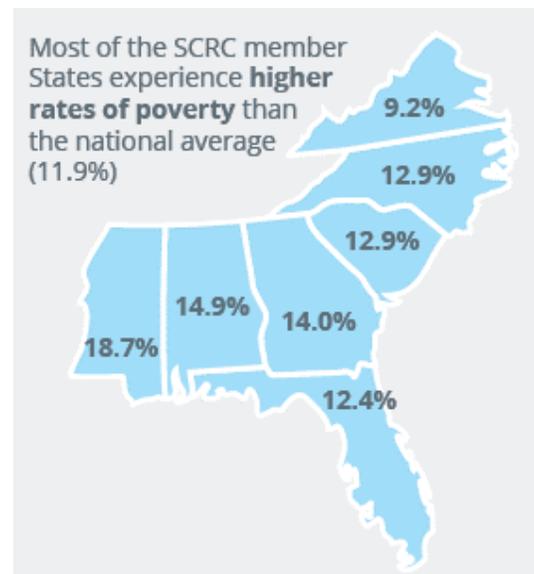
Situated between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean, the region boasts more than 600 colleges and universities, including most of the nation’s historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). SCRC is also home to important historic sites and locations – from the home of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Georgia, the famous Fredericksburg battlefield in Virginia, and the location of the first flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina – drawing tourists and residents year-round.

Further, the states’ coastal access and port infrastructure enable SCRC states to serve as gateways for local, state-wide, and regional commerce. Seaports across all seven states have played an important role in spurring statewide as well as regional economic and industry development, employment, labor income, annual gross state product, and tax revenue. Investments in ports and regional transportation infrastructure will continue enabling the efficient transport of goods and secure future economic success for the Southeast Crescent region.

¹ “Poverty.” Poverty - Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/poverty>.

Despite the myriad of assets and opportunities, challenges are prevalent. The Southeast Crescent region is home to areas with the highest rates of poverty in the United States. Close to six million people live in distressed counties. In 2020, state-wide poverty rates ranged from 9.2 percent in Virginia to 18.7 percent in Mississippi.ⁱ In all seven states of SCRC, Black households face the largest gap in median household income, as compared to their Hispanic and non-Hispanic White counterparts.²

Infrastructure in the region – including water, transit, and broadband – is considered mediocre by the American Society of Civil Engineers³, while healthcare costs, healthcare access, and health outcomes are among the lowest ranking in the country. Through an economic mobility lens, the region has lower-than-average median household income levels and job growth rates, while a lack of economic diversification in some communities leaves them susceptible to economic turbulence. Legacy barriers in housing impact the socioeconomic security and well-being of residents today, while the region’s stunning environmental landscape comes at the high cost of vulnerability to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods.



Guiding Principles

Of the seven states served by SCRC, six are shared with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Delta Regional Authority (DRA). Like SCRC, these regional commissions are charged with investing in programs and projects that will improve economic development within the footprint. ARC and DRA have been active for 58 years and 23 years, respectively, and deliver successful programs, projects, and activities that drive economic development and job growth.

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. Chapter 2 § 15501, SCRC will invest in projects that will:

- Develop transportation, telecommunications, and public infrastructure;
- Assist in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;
- Provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas in the region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services;
- Promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space consistent with economic development goals; and
- Promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

² “State Level Poverty Data.” *USDA ERS - Data Products*, USDA Economic Research Service, <https://data.ers.usda.gov/reports.aspx?ID=17826>.

³ “ASCE’s 2021 American Infrastructure Report Card.” *ASCE’s 2021 Infrastructure Report Card*, American Society of Civil Engineers, 22 Aug. 2022, <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/>.

What to See from 2023

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) officially began operating in January 2021. To have an immediate impact, SCRC assessed the region, directly connecting to local stakeholders by way of a seven-state survey and virtual community meetings, resulting in the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan, which led to several programs to include the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program. Combining backdated appropriations from FY 2010 through FY 2023, SCRC funded these programs and will award \$20 million through the SEID Grant Program in the six participating states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Florida has opted out for FY 2023.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

Adopted in December 2023, the strategic plan serves as SCRC's comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plan, a blueprint to champion equity-centered, anti-poverty efforts and catalyst for regional economic growth and community sustainability. Focused on service, equity, and resiliency, SCRC identified six strategic goals to address throughout the region and resources needed to help fill gaps in services.

1. Invest in Critical Infrastructure
2. Improve Health and Support Services Access and Outcomes
3. Strengthen Workforce Capacity
4. Foster Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities
5. Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Access
6. Promote Environmental Conservation, Preservation, and Access

SCRC is poised to set the standard for anti-poverty and economic growth efforts in the region. Designed to affect change, SCRC's strategic plan established four impact measures to evaluate efforts and investments made from FY 2023 to FY 2027. These targets (listed below) will measure outcomes associated with SCRC investments into initiatives and activities made through the inaugural SEID grant program, which launched in FY 2023.

Target 1: Number of households and businesses with new or improved access to critical services.

Target 2: Number of jobs created and/or retained.

Target 3: Number of communities with enhanced capacity.

Target 4: Value of community and resident wealth attained or built.

State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program

Infusing fiscal investments across the footprint is how SCRC will improve the economic status and sustainability levels of communities. The SEID program will invest \$20M in economic and infrastructure development projects in communities to reduce the detrimental effects of poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. In FY 2023, SCRC created and launched the inaugural grant program. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was broadly disseminated throughout the six participating states. The pre-application phase yielded 363 interested entities, totaling \$119.2M in requested funds. During the pre-application phase, 136 of the 363 entities were invited to submit full application. 103 of the 136 applicants submitted full application requests totaling \$46 million. The final evaluation phase is currently underway.

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Conference – New Orleans, LA

SCRC accepted an invitation from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), a regional commission with 22 years in existence, to attend their annual summit. As a guest of DRA Federal Co-Chair Wiggins, SCRC Federal Co-Chair Clyburn Reed gained valuable insight from impassioned panelists and informative sessions. Given that SCRC and DRA share two states, Alabama and Mississippi, this opportunity gave SCRC a deeper insight into what to expect and how to respond to the needs of varied community landscapes.

NADO and DDAA Conference – Arlington, VA

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) are advocates for promoting community development and economic competitiveness in places that have been under resourced and underserved. SCRC accepted an invitation to attend the annual policy conference. NADO/DDAA serves as a conduit to fiscal and human resources throughout its membership which are primarily local development districts (LDDs) and economic development districts across the country. Attending the annual conference gave SCRC an opportunity to introduce the Commission and its goals to a broad audience and connect with economic development leaders in SCRC member states. SCRC will now partner with NADO to provide training to the 55 LDDs participating in the LDD Capacity Building Program.

Local Development Districts (LDD) Capacity Building Program

In preparation of formulating a capacity building program for LDDs located in the Southeast Crescent region, SCRC studied existing LDD programs and the statutes of the other active regional commissions. The capacity building program will assist communities with development planning, training, outreach, and grant implementation. As a result, SCRC identified 55 LDDs with administrative expenses. The primary goal of the LDD program is to increase SCRC outreach activities to local governments, community groups, the business community, and distressed and transitional communities while improving local access to funding sources and assisting entities to receive financial investments.

Research and Evaluation Consortium

To advise policymakers and guide decision making, SCRC began commissioning research and compiling data to be impactful and intentional with investments and programs. SCRC will continue to collaborate with researchers, evaluators, mapping specialists, and economists to track trends and address economic and infrastructure developments and barriers in the region. In FY 2023, SCRC commissioned a health assessment of the 166 distressed counties and county equivalents in the region. Findings are aligned with the White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and will be used to develop programming.

State Capacity Cooperative Program

In FY 2023, SCRC and member states authored cooperative agreements outlining how states would assist with grant compliance and facilitate training and outreach efforts. Additionally, member states will collaborate with LDDs to oversee grant administration of awards and assist LDDs with technical assistance.

Crescent Care Collaborative

In FY 2023, SCRC responded to data reflecting medical professional shortages and low access to quality healthcare throughout the region by implementing its first initiative through the Crescent Care Collaborative (CCC), the J-1 visa waiver program. A J-1 visa waiver allows foreign physicians who trained in the United States, to work for three years in medically underserved areas or where there is a health professional shortage within the SCRC region. Funding also allows staff to review applications, field applicant and attorney inquiries, and support mobile clinics in rural areas. Staff works directly with the U.S. Department of State (DoS) to process applications and monitor program compliance for three years. To date, SCRC has processed 135 applications and approved the acquisition and/or retention of 80 physicians. Another 39 are pending a decision. CCC programming is aligned with the White House National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.

2023 Tuskegee University Booker T. Washington Annual Summit

Montgomery, AL

The Federal Co-Chair was the keynote speaker for Tuskegee University's 27th Annual Booker T. Washington Summit. The title of Dr. Clyburn Reed's presentation was *Empowering Communities Today to Face the Challenges of Tomorrow*.

While scheduled to speak in a neighboring county, a meeting was scheduled on the campus of Troy University, located in Pike County, an SCRC economically distressed county. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from local community leaders and share information about the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program. Meeting attendees included Troy University Senior Vice Chancellor of Advancement, General Rick Boutwell, Director Kenneth Boswell, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and SCRC Governor's Alternate, and several local community stakeholders.

Other FY 2023 Speaking and Outreach Engagements

- 2023 Mississippi Policy Conference – Biloxi, MS
- Alabama Local Government Showcase – Atmore, AL
- 2023 SC Community Development Association Annual Meeting – Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2023 Municipal Associations of South Carolina Annual Meeting – Myrtle Beach, SC
- SC Legislative Black Caucus weekly meeting - Columbia, SC
- Published article in local government magazines in AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, and VA
- 2023 SC Community Capital Alliance Conference – Rock Hill, SC
- NASW- SC Chapter Student Legislative Day – Virtual
- Georgia Association of Regional Commissions Annual Conference – St. Simons, GA
- 2023 SC Rural Summit – Beaufort, SC
- Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg/Calhoun counties - Community Needs Assessment presentation
- SC Councils of Government Annual Conference – Myrtle Beach, SC
- Voorhees University Roundtable Discussion and Presentation – Denmark, SC
- Meetings with individual Members of Congress to share SCRC data and progress.

Presentations to Congressional committees include:

Senate Appropriations Committee on Energy and Water Development (EWD)

Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) and

House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee.

SCRC Regional Footprint

428 Counties and County Equivalents

Alabama – 13 counties - Autauga, Baldwin, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Mobile, Montgomery County, Pike

Florida – 67 counties - Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

Georgia – 122 counties - Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Cobb, Coffee, Colquitt, Columbia, Cook, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, De Kalb, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Fayette, Fulton, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Henry, Houston, Irwin, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Lanier, Laurens, Lee, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, McDuffie, McIntosh, Meriwether, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pierce, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Rockdale, Schley, Screven, Seminole, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Toombs, Treutlen, Troup, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Walton, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson, Worth

Mississippi – 18 counties - Clarke, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Pearl River, Perry, Scott, Stone, Wayne

North Carolina – 69 counties - Alamance, Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson

South Carolina – 39 counties - Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, Sumter, Williamsburg, York

Virginia – 100 counties & county equivalents - Accomack, Albemarle, **Alexandria city**, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, **Charlottesville city**, **Chesapeake city**, Chesterfield, Clarke, **Colonial Heights city**, Culpeper, Cumberland, **Danville city**, Dinwiddie, **Emporia city**, Essex, Fairfax, **Fairfax City**, Falls **Church city**, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Franklin, **Franklin city**, Frederick, **Fredericksburg city**, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, **Hampton city**, Hanover, **Harrisonburg city**, Henrico, **Hopewell city**, Isle Of Wight, James City, King And Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, **Lynchburg city**, Madison, **Manassas city**, **Manassas Park city**, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Nelson, New Kent, **Newport News city**, **Norfolk city**, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, **Petersburg city**, Pittsylvania, **Poquoson city**, **Portsmouth city**, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Rappahannock, Richmond, **Richmond city**, Roanoke, **Roanoke city**, Rockingham, **Salem city**, Shenandoah, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, **Staunton city**, **Suffolk city**, Surry, Sussex, **Virginia Beach city**, Warren, **Waynesboro city**, Westmoreland, **Williamsburg city**, **Winchester city**, York

Economic Designation Methodology

SCRC Economic Designation of Counties & County Equivalents

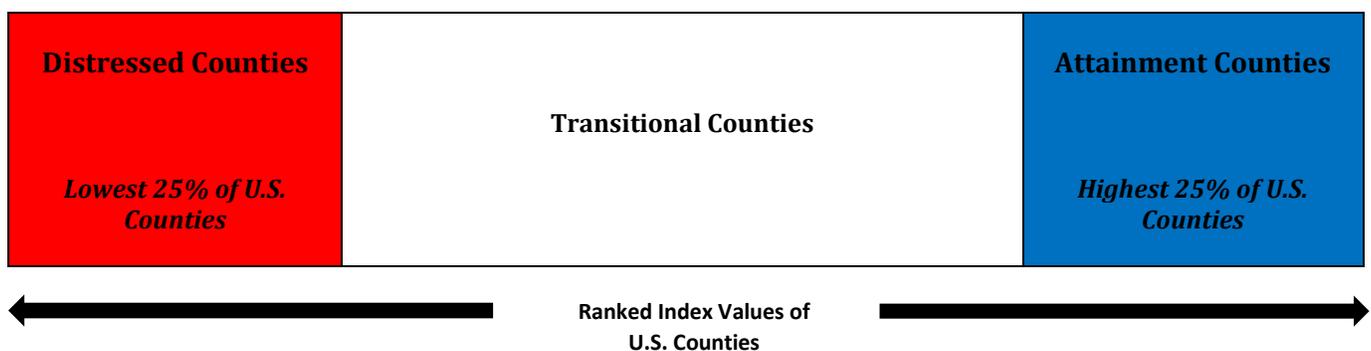
In accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 15702, the SCRC will annually assign economic designations to counties and areas within the region, the categories are:

- A. **Distressed Counties** – Those counties that are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped and have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.
- B. **Transitional Counties** – Those counties that are economically distressed and underdeveloped or have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.
- C. **Attainment Counties** – Those counties in its region **not** designated as distressed or transitional counties under this subsection.

Methodology

In 2022, SCRC used an index-based county economic classification system to identify and monitor the economic status of its counties. The system involves the creation of a national index of county economic status through a comparison of each county’s averages for three economic indicators—three-year average unemployment rate, per capita market income, and poverty rate—with national averages. The resulting values are summed and averaged to create a composite index value for each county. Each county in the nation is then ranked, based on its composite index value, with higher values indicating higher levels of distress.

SCRC County Economic Status Designation by National Index Value Rank



SCRC FY23 Distressed Counties and County Equivalents - 166

Alabama (3)

Covington, Geneva, and Pike

Florida (24)

Bradford, Calhoun, Citrus, DeSoto, Dixie, Gadsden, Glades, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Jacksons, Lafayette, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Okeechobee, Osceola, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and Washington

Georgia (74)

Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Baldwin, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bibb, Bleckley, Brantley, Brooks, Bulloch, Burke, Calhoun, Candler, Charlton, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Emanuel, Evans, Hancock, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lanier, Laurens, Lowndes, Macon, McDuffie, Meriwether, Mitchell, Montgomery, Peach, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Screven, Seminole, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Taylor, Telfair, Terrell, Toombs, Treutlen, Turner, Twiggs, Upson, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkes, and Wilkinson

Mississippi (14)

Clarke, Forrest, George, Greene, Harrison, Jones, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Perry, Scott, Stone, and Wayne

North Carolina (26)

Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Caswell, Chowan, Columbus, Cumberland, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington, and Wilson

South Carolina (16)

Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Dillon, Hampton, Laurens, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg

Virginia (9)

Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Danville City, Emporia City, Greensville, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward

SCRC FY23 Transitional Counties and County Equivalents - 177

Alabama (9)

Autauga, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Henry, Houston, Lee, Mobile, and Montgomery

Florida (30)

Alachua, Baker, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia

Georgia (36)

Butts, Camden, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Crawford, DeKalb, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Greene, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Marion, McIntosh, Miller, Monroe, Muscogee, Newton, Oglethorpe, Pierce, Pulaski, Putnam, Rockdale, Schley, Talbot, Thomas, Tift, Troup, Walton, and Worth

Mississippi (4)

Hancock, Jackson, Lamar, and Pearl River

North Carolina (33)

Alamance, Beaufort, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Craven, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lincoln, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rowan, Stanly, and Wayne

South Carolina (19)

Aiken, Berkeley, Calhoun, Darlington, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, McCormick, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, and Sumter

Virginia (46)

Accomack, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Colonial Heights City, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Franklin City, Franklin, Halifax, Hampton City, Harrisonburg City, Hopewell City, King and Queen, Lancaster, Louisa, Lunenburg, Lynchburg City, Nelson, Newport News City, Norfolk City, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Petersburg City, Portsmouth City, Prince George, Richmond City, Richmond, Roanoke City, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Southampton, Staunton City, Surry, Sussex, Warren, Waynesboro City, and Westmoreland

SCRC FY23 Attainment Counties and County Equivalents - 85

Alabama (1)

Baldwin

Florida (13)

Collier, Indian River, Martin, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Wakulla, and Walton

Georgia (12)

Bryan, Cobb, Columbia, Coweta, Effingham, Fayette, Fulton, Harris, Lee, Morgan, Oconee, and Pike

Mississippi (0)

North Carolina (10)

Camden, Carteret, Chatham, Currituck, Dare, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Orange, Union, and Wake

South Carolina (4)

Beaufort, Charleston, Lexington, and York

Virginia (45)

Albemarle, Alexandria City, Arlington, Bedford, Charlottesville City, Chesapeake City, Chesterfield, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax City, Fairfax, Falls Church City, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Fredericksburg City, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King William, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Poquoson City, Powhatan, Prince William, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Salem City, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Suffolk City, Virginia Beach City, Williamsburg City, Winchester City, and York

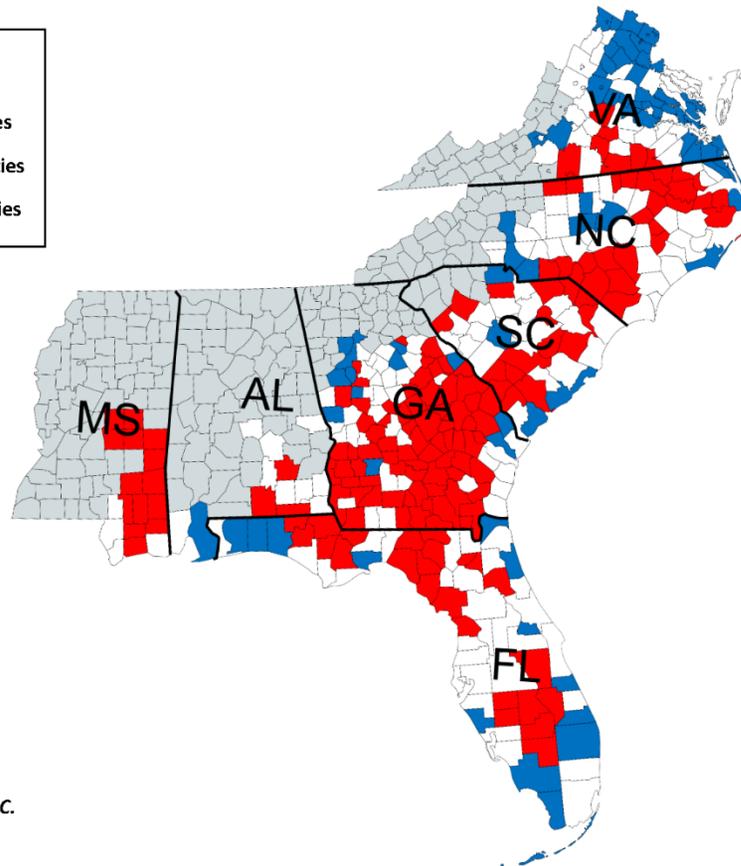
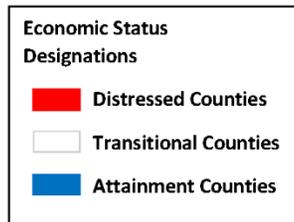
SCRC Regional Map of Economic Status FY 2023

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

FY23 Economic Designations

REGIONAL MAP

(ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA)

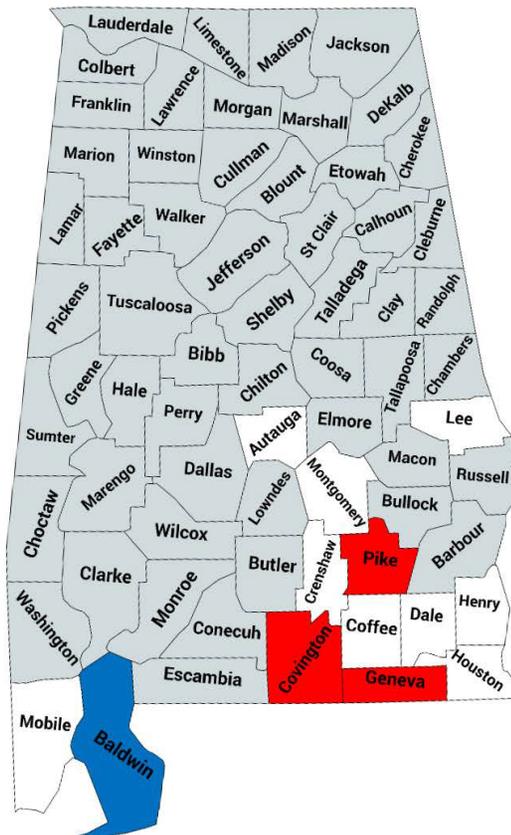
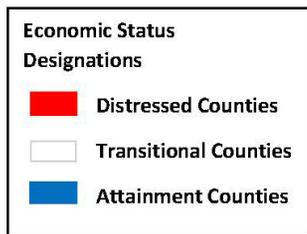


**Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.*

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

FY23 Economic Designations

ALABAMA

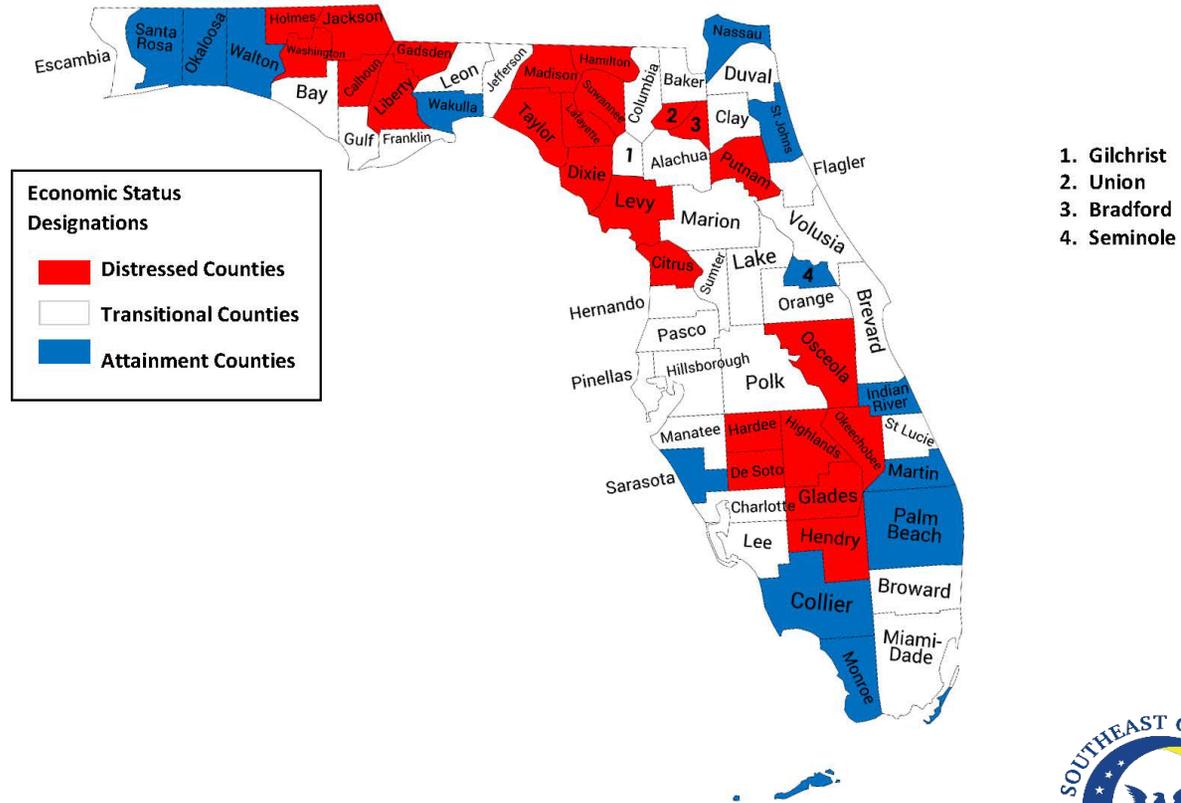


**Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.*



Southeast Crescent Regional Commission FY23 Economic Designations

FLORIDA

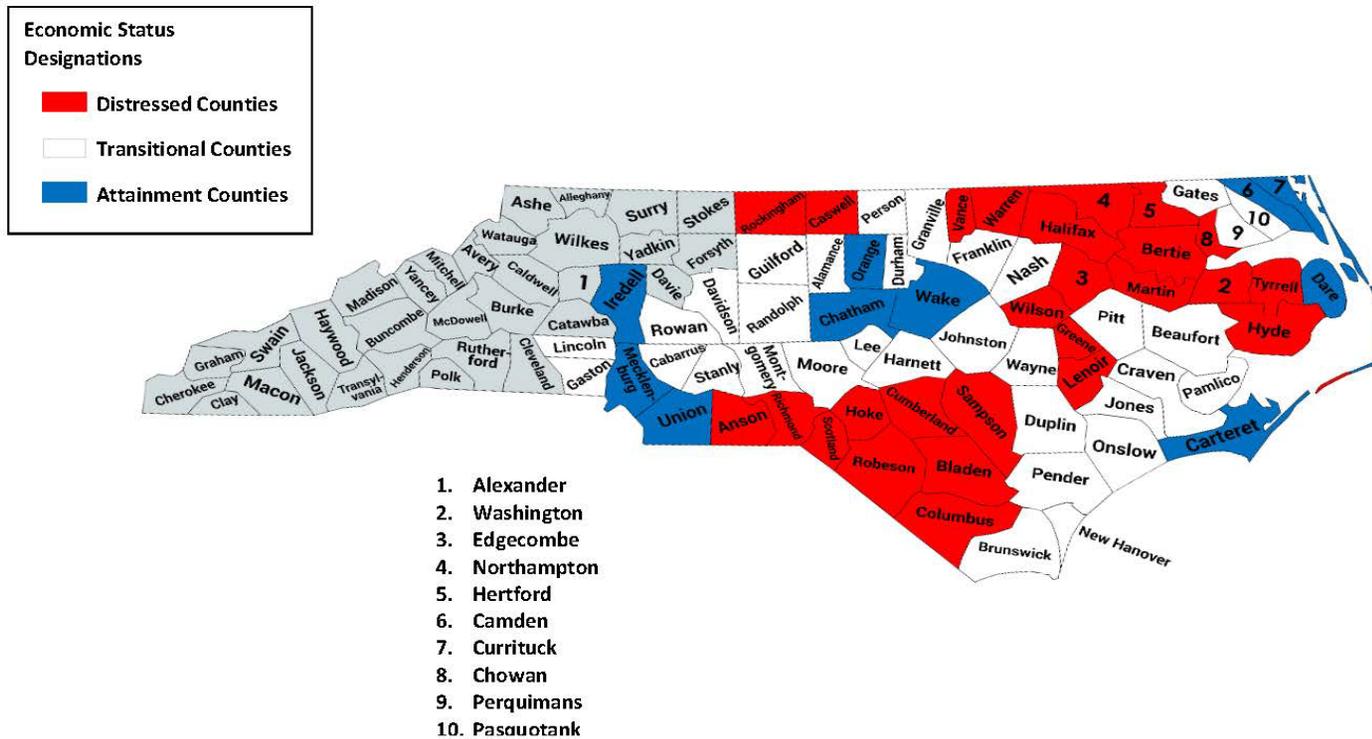


**Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.*



SCRC State Map of North Carolina, Economic Status FY 2023

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission FY23 Economic Designations NORTH CAROLINA



*Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.

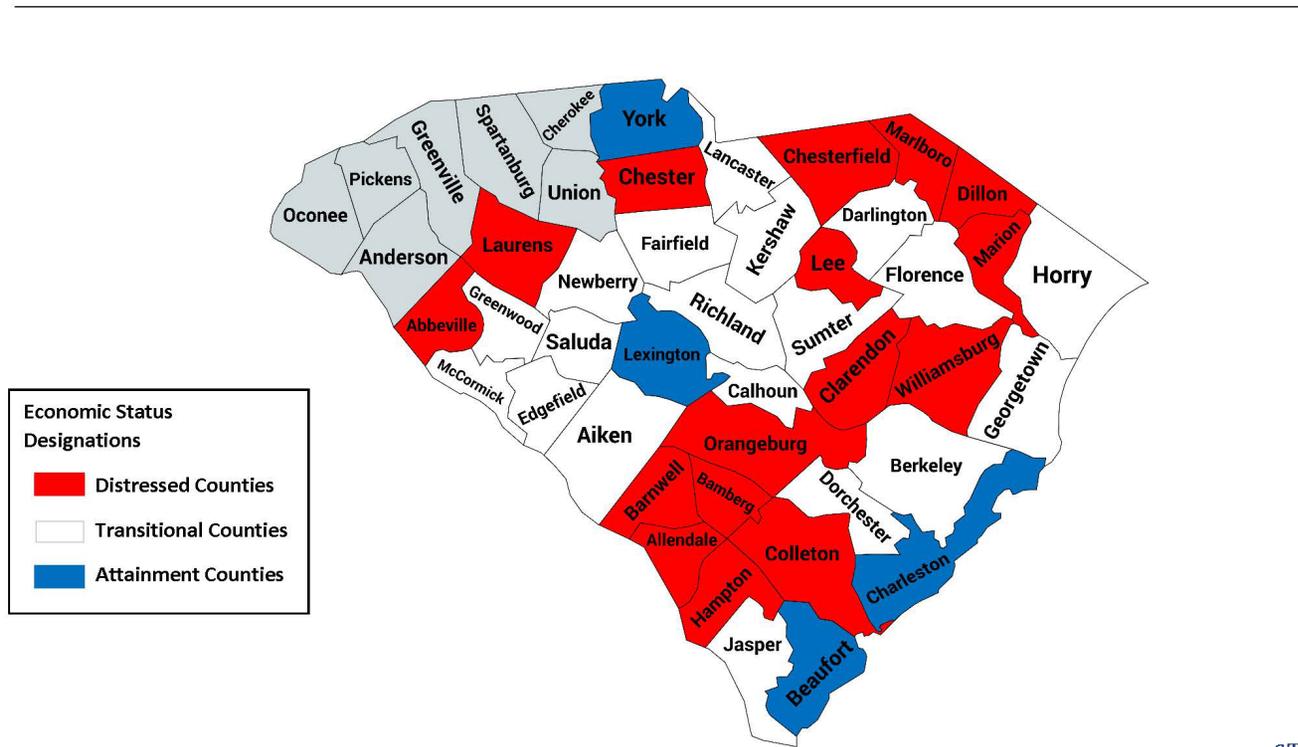


SCRC State Map of South Carolina, Economic Status FY 2023

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

FY23 Economic Designations

SOUTH CAROLINA

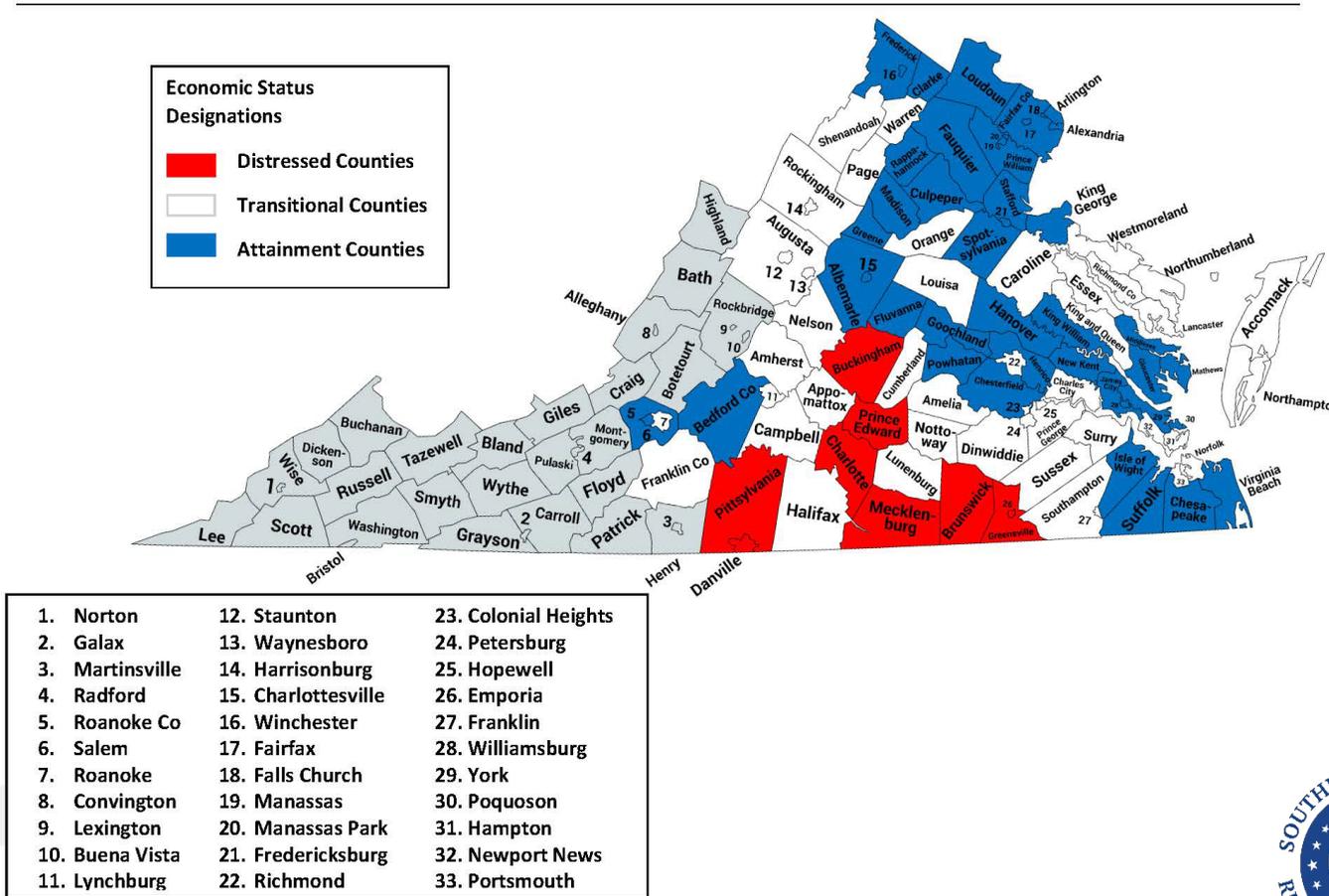


**Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.*



Southeast Crescent Regional Commission FY23 Economic Designations

VIRGINIA



*Counties in grey are not covered by SCRC.



Isolated Areas of Distress Methodology (Attainment Counties & County Equivalents Only)

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 15702, the SCRC will designate as isolated areas of distress, areas located in counties designated as attainment counties that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

In determining isolated areas of distress, the SCRC used the following three variables and applied them to attainment county census tracts:

- 1.) census tracts at or above U.S. Median Poverty Rate of 12.6%;
- 2.) census tracts below the U.S. Median Household Income of \$46,244, and
- 3.) census tracts designated as a historical disadvantage community.

To be classified as an isolated area of distress, all three conditions must be met. All data came from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates, except for the Historically Disadvantaged Communities classification that is sourced from the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and defined by utilizing the principles of Justice40 Initiative. The Justice40 Initiative was created by Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Justice40 sets a goal of certain federal investments flowing to disadvantaged communities.

US DOT used the 6 categories below to assess the overall level of disadvantage of communities:



Source: US Dept of Transportation, Justice40 Fact Sheet

Table: Number of Isolated Areas of Distress by State

	# of Attainment Census Tracts	# of Attainment Distressed Census Tracts	Percent Distressed
Alabama	17	1	5.9%
Florida	618	30	4.9%
Georgia	281	39	13.9%
Mississippi	0	0	0.0%
North Carolina	455	39	8.6%
South Carolina	196	23	11.7%
Virginia	1005	7	0.7%
Total	2572	139	5.4%

Distressed Census Tracts

All of the following:

- (Yes) Historically Disadvantaged Community
- (≥12.6%) Greater than U.S. Poverty Rate
- (<\$46,244) 67% of the U.S. Median Household Income

*To be included in analysis, each census tract must have all three measures determined. (If the census tract was missing any of the variables, then it was excluded from analysis.)

**All data came from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates with the exception of Historically Disadvantaged Communities, which comes from U.S. Department of Transportation: <https://datahub.transportation.gov/stories/s/tsyd-k6ij>

FY 2023 Isolated Areas of Distress

	State	County/County Equivalent	Census Tract	Designation	Poverty Rate	Median Household Income	Historically Disadvantaged Community
1	Alabama	Baldwin County	106	Distressed	33.6%	\$22,330	Yes
2	Florida	Collier County	114	Distressed	22.0%	\$43,628	Yes
3	Florida	Indian River County	501.01	Distressed	23.2%	\$38,652	Yes
4	Florida	Indian River County	504.01	Distressed	30.5%	\$26,679	Yes
5	Florida	Martin County	8	Distressed	22.5%	\$46,125	Yes
6	Florida	Martin County	10	Distressed	20.4%	\$45,052	Yes
7	Florida	Martin County	12	Distressed	23.8%	\$36,324	Yes
8	Florida	Okaloosa County	221	Distressed	15.8%	\$45,750	Yes
9	Florida	Palm Beach County	15	Distressed	20.2%	\$37,969	Yes
10	Florida	Palm Beach County	18.02	Distressed	17.0%	\$41,196	Yes
11	Florida	Palm Beach County	19.12	Distressed	24.0%	\$25,888	Yes
12	Florida	Palm Beach County	21	Distressed	25.9%	\$30,185	Yes
13	Florida	Palm Beach County	40.07	Distressed	23.9%	\$44,179	Yes
14	Florida	Palm Beach County	40.13	Distressed	17.3%	\$31,894	Yes
15	Florida	Palm Beach County	42.03	Distressed	22.4%	\$40,017	Yes
16	Florida	Palm Beach County	45	Distressed	23.9%	\$41,451	Yes
17	Florida	Palm Beach County	51.02	Distressed	17.1%	\$44,178	Yes
18	Florida	Palm Beach County	77.46	Distressed	23.7%	\$22,222	Yes
19	Florida	Palm Beach County	80.01	Distressed	62.5%	\$18,465	Yes
20	Florida	Palm Beach County	80.02	Distressed	21.8%	\$32,127	Yes
21	Florida	Palm Beach County	82.01	Distressed	37.5%	\$31,705	Yes
22	Florida	Palm Beach County	82.03	Distressed	29.3%	\$35,977	Yes
23	Florida	Palm Beach County	83.01	Distressed	28.9%	\$45,781	Yes
24	Florida	Santa Rosa County	106.01	Distressed	14.9%	\$44,071	Yes
25	Florida	Santa Rosa County	107.05	Distressed	23.1%	\$44,784	Yes
26	Florida	Sarasota County	27.21	Distressed	15.3%	\$45,732	Yes
27	Florida	Seminole County	205	Distressed	39.5%	\$42,652	Yes
28	Florida	Seminole County	209.01	Distressed	22.9%	\$35,915	Yes
29	Florida	Seminole County	209.02	Distressed	20.1%	\$45,301	Yes
30	Florida	Seminole County	220.01	Distressed	37.6%	\$45,000	Yes
31	Florida	St. Johns County	210.02	Distressed	30.0%	\$39,732	Yes
32	Georgia	Cobb County	304.14	Distressed	30.3%	\$40,527	Yes
33	Georgia	Cobb County	307	Distressed	24.3%	\$45,583	Yes
34	Georgia	Cobb County	310.04	Distressed	12.6%	\$46,116	Yes

	State	County/County Equivalent	Census Tract	Designation	Poverty Rate	Median Household Income	Historically Disadvantaged Community
35	Georgia	Fulton County	24	Distressed	39.6%	\$27,647	Yes
36	Georgia	Fulton County	25	Distressed	41.3%	\$34,082	Yes
37	Georgia	Fulton County	26	Distressed	30.9%	\$27,188	Yes
38	Georgia	Fulton County	40	Distressed	27.3%	\$45,761	Yes
39	Georgia	Fulton County	48	Distressed	38.6%	\$15,726	Yes
40	Georgia	Fulton County	55.01	Distressed	43.9%	\$37,342	Yes
41	Georgia	Fulton County	57	Distressed	19.1%	\$35,607	Yes
42	Georgia	Fulton County	61	Distressed	37.6%	\$28,967	Yes
43	Georgia	Fulton County	62	Distressed	24.5%	\$43,147	Yes
44	Georgia	Fulton County	63	Distressed	40.0%	\$37,016	Yes
45	Georgia	Fulton County	64	Distressed	24.6%	\$36,181	Yes
46	Georgia	Fulton County	66.02	Distressed	34.8%	\$22,500	Yes
47	Georgia	Fulton County	67.01	Distressed	28.1%	\$25,963	Yes
48	Georgia	Fulton County	70.01	Distressed	37.7%	\$30,324	Yes
49	Georgia	Fulton County	71	Distressed	27.7%	\$27,993	Yes
50	Georgia	Fulton County	73.02	Distressed	44.3%	\$18,247	Yes
51	Georgia	Fulton County	74	Distressed	40.1%	\$26,391	Yes
52	Georgia	Fulton County	75	Distressed	26.5%	\$26,023	Yes
53	Georgia	Fulton County	76.02	Distressed	16.6%	\$42,965	Yes
54	Georgia	Fulton County	76.03	Distressed	44.5%	\$15,499	Yes
55	Georgia	Fulton County	76.04	Distressed	33.6%	\$26,175	Yes
56	Georgia	Fulton County	77.05	Distressed	13.8%	\$34,543	Yes
57	Georgia	Fulton County	78.07	Distressed	18.3%	\$43,586	Yes
58	Georgia	Fulton County	78.08	Distressed	63.2%	\$16,535	Yes
59	Georgia	Fulton County	80	Distressed	18.6%	\$41,281	Yes
60	Georgia	Fulton County	82.02	Distressed	39.6%	\$25,875	Yes
61	Georgia	Fulton County	83.01	Distressed	42.0%	\$28,144	Yes
62	Georgia	Fulton County	83.02	Distressed	32.4%	\$28,173	Yes
63	Georgia	Fulton County	85	Distressed	40.2%	\$35,515	Yes
64	Georgia	Fulton County	86.01	Distressed	34.0%	\$26,563	Yes
65	Georgia	Fulton County	87.01	Distressed	27.1%	\$27,883	Yes
66	Georgia	Fulton County	106.03	Distressed	14.9%	\$42,246	Yes
67	Georgia	Fulton County	106.04	Distressed	24.9%	\$26,737	Yes
68	Georgia	Fulton County	110	Distressed	38.1%	\$37,888	Yes
69	Georgia	Fulton County	113.06	Distressed	14.5%	\$44,746	Yes
70	Georgia	Fulton County	120	Distressed	52.0%	\$12,288	Yes
71	North Carolina	Chatham County	204.01	Distressed	26.1%	\$42,205	Yes
72	North Carolina	Chatham County	204.02	Distressed	32.3%	\$33,875	Yes

	State	County/County Equivalent	Census Tract	Designation	Poverty Rate	Median Household Income	Historically Disadvantaged Community
73	North Carolina	Iredell County	602	Distressed	33.7%	\$33,971	Yes
74	North Carolina	Iredell County	603	Distressed	24.4%	\$37,119	Yes
75	North Carolina	Iredell County	604	Distressed	22.9%	\$41,098	Yes
76	North Carolina	Iredell County	606.01	Distressed	19.2%	\$35,404	Yes
77	North Carolina	Iredell County	616.01	Distressed	24.1%	\$42,617	Yes
78	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	15.04	Distressed	17.4%	\$41,375	Yes
79	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	15.07	Distressed	29.9%	\$35,958	Yes
80	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	16.05	Distressed	15.4%	\$42,260	Yes
81	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	16.08	Distressed	35.1%	\$43,618	Yes
82	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	16.09	Distressed	22.5%	\$43,603	Yes
83	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	19.10	Distressed	15.6%	\$42,641	Yes
84	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	19.14	Distressed	22.4%	\$44,569	Yes
85	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	38.02	Distressed	28.2%	\$35,051	Yes
86	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	38.07	Distressed	26.4%	\$42,420	Yes
87	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	39.02	Distressed	32.2%	\$36,111	Yes
88	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	39.03	Distressed	59.3%	\$19,113	Yes
89	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	40	Distressed	13.0%	\$45,206	Yes
90	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	42	Distressed	16.4%	\$37,304	Yes
91	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	43.02	Distressed	21.0%	\$36,765	Yes
92	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	43.04	Distressed	17.2%	\$39,536	Yes
93	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	45	Distressed	21.3%	\$33,418	Yes
94	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	46	Distressed	17.7%	\$35,104	Yes
95	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	48	Distressed	29.2%	\$25,607	Yes
96	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	51	Distressed	30.7%	\$27,091	Yes
97	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	52	Distressed	26.3%	\$31,654	Yes
98	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.01	Distressed	27.4%	\$36,088	Yes
99	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.05	Distressed	21.9%	\$41,750	Yes
100	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.06	Distressed	25.5%	\$38,017	Yes
101	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.07	Distressed	31.6%	\$36,467	Yes
102	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	53.08	Distressed	36.7%	\$32,528	Yes
103	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	59.16	Distressed	21.8%	\$39,911	Yes
104	North Carolina	Orange County	116.02	Distressed	41.7%	\$30,625	Yes
105	North Carolina	Wake County	508	Distressed	33.0%	\$31,962	Yes
106	North Carolina	Wake County	520.01	Distressed	29.0%	\$35,077	Yes
107	North Carolina	Wake County	521.01	Distressed	22.2%	\$40,996	Yes
108	North Carolina	Wake County	524.09	Distressed	45.7%	\$27,079	Yes
109	North Carolina	Wake County	527.04	Distressed	23.6%	\$38,833	Yes
110	South Carolina	Beaufort County	6	Distressed	21.8%	\$42,826	Yes

	State	County/County Equivalent	Census Tract	Designation	Poverty Rate	Median Household Income	Historically Disadvantaged Community
111	South Carolina	Charleston County	24.02	Distressed	18.2%	\$40,273	Yes
112	South Carolina	Charleston County	27.02	Distressed	16.7%	\$44,022	Yes
113	South Carolina	Charleston County	31.04	Distressed	26.2%	\$30,702	Yes
114	South Carolina	Charleston County	31.05	Distressed	29.9%	\$33,628	Yes
115	South Carolina	Charleston County	33	Distressed	29.1%	\$34,125	Yes
116	South Carolina	Charleston County	34	Distressed	32.3%	\$40,023	Yes
117	South Carolina	Charleston County	37	Distressed	19.8%	\$31,110	Yes
118	South Carolina	Charleston County	43	Distressed	35.1%	\$27,419	Yes
119	South Carolina	Charleston County	50.02	Distressed	27.8%	\$44,345	Yes
120	South Carolina	Charleston County	54	Distressed	38.2%	\$33,393	Yes
121	South Carolina	Lexington County	203	Distressed	28.2%	\$41,786	Yes
122	South Carolina	Lexington County	205.05	Distressed	17.0%	\$43,324	Yes
123	South Carolina	Lexington County	205.09	Distressed	20.1%	\$45,513	Yes
124	South Carolina	Lexington County	207.03	Distressed	23.0%	\$40,750	Yes
125	South Carolina	Lexington County	208.04	Distressed	28.5%	\$34,802	Yes
126	South Carolina	Lexington County	214.02	Distressed	16.5%	\$43,879	Yes
127	South Carolina	Lexington County	214.03	Distressed	17.2%	\$44,259	Yes
128	South Carolina	York County	603	Distressed	26.2%	\$33,604	Yes
129	South Carolina	York County	604.01	Distressed	19.8%	\$27,083	Yes
130	South Carolina	York County	605.02	Distressed	24.9%	\$41,250	Yes
131	South Carolina	York County	616.01	Distressed	32.7%	\$41,143	Yes
132	South Carolina	York County	616.02	Distressed	16.0%	\$43,182	Yes
133	Virginia	Charlottesville city	6	Distressed	67.1%	\$22,908	Yes
134	Virginia	Chesterfield County	1001.07	Distressed	33.4%	\$43,952	Yes
135	Virginia	Chesterfield County	1003	Distressed	27.8%	\$37,615	Yes
136	Virginia	Chesterfield County	1004.04	Distressed	18.3%	\$37,460	Yes
137	Virginia	Chesterfield County	1004.06	Distressed	37.6%	\$32,682	Yes
138	Virginia	Suffolk city	651	Distressed	20.8%	\$41,838	Yes
139	Virginia	Winchester city	1.02	Distressed	31.0%	\$39,537	Yes